

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127411 TOSEC 020190

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 3343 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN

CAIRO DAMASCUS MAY 31.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3343

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. XGDS-1

TAGS: OREP (JKENNEDY EDWARD)

SUBJ: RABIN DINNER FOR SENATOR KENNEDY

1.. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF PRIME MINISTER RABINS'S DINNER LAST
NAIGH (MAY 30) IN HONOR OF SENATOR KENNEDY WHICH PROVIDED
BACK-DROP TO ONLY SUBSTATIVE EXCHANGES OF VISIT.

2. SHMUEL TAMIR, LIKUD M.K., RAISED WITH CHARGE ARTICLE OF MAY 29 BY
GOLAN (TEL AVIV3315), STATING THAT ARTICLE " WORRIED HIM VERY MUCH".
IN COURSE SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, TAMIR CLARIFIED THAT HIS CONCERN
WAS THAT GOI MIGHT AGREE TO ANY KIND OF INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH
EGYPT ON ANY TERMS WHAT SO EVER. HE REITERATED HIS VIEW
THAT ISRAEL SHOULD ONLY GIVE UP TERRITORY FOR " REAL PEACE"
IN CONTEXT FINAL SETTLEMENT.

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3. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE, MINJUSTICE ZADOK TENDED TO DISCOUNT TAMIR'S CONVICTION RE SUCH NEGATIVE VIEWS ON A POSSIBLE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. ACCORDING TO ZADOK, TAMIR " WOULD COME AROUND" SHOULD AGREEMENT BE CONCLUDED. ZADOK ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO SINGLE OUT IMPORTANCE OF DURATION ELEMENT IN ANY INTERIM ACCORD.

4. LATER IN EVENING, MINCOMMERCE BAR LEV DESCRIBE GOLAN TO CHARGE AS "TOP ANALYST WHO INVARIABLY CAME TO WRONG CONCLUSIONS." THIS

ARTCILE NO EXCEPTION TO RULE. RE POSSIBLE NEW AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, BAR LEV STATED PREVIOUS GOI INSISTENCE ON NON-BELLIGERENCY WAS "BLUNDER NOT TO BE REPEATED". HE ALSO STRESSED DURATION ELEMENT, BUT

ADDED THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO RECEIVE "MORE" IN TERMS OF " NORMALIZATION". IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID THAT AN AGREEMENT TO ALLOW ISRAELI FLAG SHIPS TO USE CANAL WOULD BE IDEAL, IF ATTAINABLE. IN CONTEXT DEVELOPING THEM OF IMPORTANCE OF "NORMALIZATION" BAR LEV CITED AS UNACCEPTABLE AND MOST DISCOURAGING EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE DURING MARCH RE PROVISION OF ABU RODEIS OIL TO ISRAEL IN EVENT FIELDS

WERE RETURNED. ISRAEL

WANTED A SIMPLE DEAL WHEREBY OIL WOULD BE TRANSPORTED TO ISRAEL IN " NEUTRAL" SHIPS. EGYPT, HE CLAIMED, AGREED THAT OIL COULD END UP IN ISRAEL, BUT ONLY AFTER IT HAD BEEN "LAUNDERED" THROUGH

ITALY AND THEN RETRANSPORTED TO ISRAEL.

ISRAE, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS ABOUT TAKING " RISKS" IN ANY NEW DEAL WITH AN EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT SO ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF DEALING WITH THE JEWISH STATE.

5. JOE ALSOP HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION ABOUT LETTER FROM 76 SENATORS WITH GROUP THAT INCLUDED MRS. RABIN, ROSENFELT (MANAGING EDITOR OF MAARIV), TAMIR AATTORNEY GENERAL SHAMGAR, AND CHARGE. ALSOP MADE POINT REPEATEDLY THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE EXTREMELY FOOLISH TO RELY ON LETTER IN CONTEST WITH ADMINISTRATION OVER FUTURE US POLICY IN MID EAST. HE ALSO HIT HARD THEME THAT ISRAEL HAD TO RELY FOR ITS SECURITY ON "REGENERATION OF AMERICAN WILL"(WHICH HE PREDICTED WOULD SHORTLY MANIFEST SELF IN OBVIOUS FASHION) COMMITTED TO SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL RATHER

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THAN ON "IDF FORTICTIONS" WHICH EVEN IN SHORT RUN WERE NOT WORTH MUCH IN SECURITY TERMS. ALSOP'S WORDS WERE GREETED WITH COMBINATION LONG FACES AND PROTEST ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE OF LETTER, PARTICULARLY FROM MRS. RABIN WHO HAS BEEN EXTREMELY VOCAL SUPPORTER OF THEIS THAT LETTER WAS VINDICATION OF HUSBAND'S POLICY OF " BEING FIRM IN FACE OF US PRESSURE."

6. RE LETTER, SENATOR EARLIER IN DAY ASKED CHARGE IF HE THOUGHT LETTER

LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE GOI FLEXIBILITY OR HARDLINE. CHARGE RESPONDED
IT HIS PERSONAL OPINION LETTER WOULD HAVE LATTER EFFECT
GIVEN CURRENT ISRAELI PROPENSITY TO BELIEVE SIGNERS
PREPARED TO SUPPORT ISRAEL WITHOUT QUALIFICATION OR REGARD
FOR ISRAELI POLICY. DURING CONVERSATION IN GROUP
WITH ALSO, CHARGE WAS ASKED BY TAMIR IF LETTER LIKELY TO HAVE
SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THINKING OF "YOUR DEPARTMENT". CHARGE REPLIED
HE DID NOT THINK LETTER WOULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON DECISIONS
RE MID EAST WHICH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WOULD BE MAKING IN NEAR
FUTURE SINCE SERIOUSNESS OF CONCRETE ISSUES AND OBJECTIVE
REALITIES OF SITUATION COULD NOT IN THEMSELVES BE ALTERED
BY WHAT WAS IN ESSENCE PR CAMPAIGN IN WASHINGTON.

7. DURING DINNER, SENATOR HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE SIDE TALKS
WITH SEVERAL MINISTERS INVITED, MOST PARTICULARLY HE HAD
QUITE LONG SESSION WITH PERES. HE ALSO MET PRIVATELY
WITH ENTIRE, CABINET GROUP WHICH INCLUDED RABIN, PERES,
ZADOK AND BARLEV. SENATOR EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT
TO CHARGE THIS MORNING BEFORE DEPARTURE ABOUT NATURE AND QUALITY
OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI MINISTERS,
INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY. HE CHARACTERIZED
MEETINGS AS CORDIAL AND INFORMATIVE; NEVERTHELESS, HE
WAS WELL AWARE HE HAD RECEIVED RATHER STANDARD GOI LINE,
WITH EMPHASIS ON CONCESSIONS AND CHANGES OF ATTITUDE REQUIRED
OF ARABS IF THERE WERE TO BE CONTINUED MOVEMENT TOWARDS
IN AREA. PUNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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